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NATO Acts On Cyprus War Threat

PARIS, Aug. 8 (UPI)—The United States and its NATO allies intervened today to try to head off a war between Greece and Turkey that might spell the end of the 15-nation organization.

Both Greece and Turkey are member states.

The NATO Permanent Council held an emergency session under the chairmanship of its new Secretary-General, Manlio Brosio of Italy.

Both Greeks and Turks were warned again of the dangers to the West as a whole if they go to war over Cyprus.

According to conference sources, the meeting was requested by the representative of Canada, which has a United Nations contingent on the island.

Continues 'Watchdog' Role

Brosio, who took over NATO's top office in August 1 from Dirk U. Stikker of the Netherlands, was reliably reported to have told the Council he intends to carry on the "watchdog" assignment on Cyprus given to Stikker at the last NATO Council of Ministers' meeting in May.

This assignment was not to attempt to arbitrate or even act as mediator but simply to keep a close eye on the situation and to lose no chance to try to calm down Greece and Turkey.

Cyprus is not a NATO member and the island does not come within the NATO area. But the risk of war between Greece and Turkey affects the entire future of the Alliance as it would destroy NATO's southeastern anchor in the Mediterranean.

Sixth Fleet in Area

The principal U.S. fighting force in the Mediterranean area is the Sixth Fleet—a powerful component of 50 ships and 25,000 men whose ships spend most of their port time in European harbors.

Several times in the past, when it appeared that the Cyprus crisis might reach a flash point, Sixth Fleet components were quietly moved into the general area of the island. But there was no indication today whether the Fleet might be called on to act in the present situation.